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February 15, 2021

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Ms. Diane Salkie  
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager  
Emergency and Remedial Response Division  
U.S. EPA, Region 2  
290 Broadway, 19th Floor  
New York, New York 10007

**Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 165 – January 2021  
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS)  
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009**

Dear Ms. Salkie:

**de maximis, inc.** is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

**(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.**

**Meetings/Conference Calls**

- On January 19, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding the status of the IR FS.
- On January 25, EPA/CPG telephone conversation between Diane Salkie and Robert Law regarding IR FS status and 2021 Biota Sampling.

**Correspondence**

- On January 7, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails on 2020 PWCM data status.
- On January 11, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails on the status of the IR.

**Ms. D. Salkie**

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- On January 11, Region 2 provided comments related to the 2019 Current conditions Biota Data Summary Report and direction regarding 2021 Biota Sampling
- On January 12, CP notified, and Region 2 acknowledged the replacement of Willard Potter by Robert Law as the CPG Project Coordinator.
- On January 22, Region 2 provided a correction to its January 11 comments.
- On January 27, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails to schedule a call to discuss EPA's January 11 Current Conditions – Biota comments.

#### **Work**

- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG reviewed Region 2's January 11 comments on Current Conditions Biota Sampling
- CPG completed revisions to the Newark Bay Study Area Modeling Reports as directed by Region 2 on January 29 and uploaded them to EPA Sharepoint on February 1.

#### **(b) Results of Sampling and Tests**

- None.

#### **(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion**

- CPG will continue calibration of the Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG will address Region 2's comments on the Draft 2019 Current Conditions Biota Sampling and the 2019/2020 Surface Water Monitoring Data Summary Reports as received.

#### **(d) Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.**

- Work/travel safety restrictions associated with COVID-19 may impact and/or delay 2021 Current Conditions Sampling field work.

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If you have any questions, please contact me at 215-806-7688.

Very truly yours,

**de maximis, inc.**



Robert Law, Ph.D.  
CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel  
Dawn Lamparello, CPG Coordinating Counsel  
Lisa Baron, USACE  
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